

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In a communication dated August 8, 2005 for the above-application, the Examiner restricted the claims as follows: Group I, claims 1-8 and 13-17, drawn to a method of operating a split-axis stage in an inspection system; and Group II, claims 9-12, drawn to a split-axis stage in an inspection system.

Applicants elect without traverse Group I, namely claims 1-8, 13-17. Applicants have amended claim 12 to depend from claim 13 and respectfully request that it be included with the Group I claims and be prosecuted in the above-identified application. Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 9-11 without prejudice to filing a continuing application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 1-8 and 12-17 are ready for examination.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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